

CLOUDBURST

Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia Newsletter

March, 1990



FMCBC

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia (FMCBC) is the official sport governing body for mountaineering in B.C., representing the interests of hiking, climbing and outdoor clubs in the province.

The FMCBC operates as a non-profit organization addressing mountain related issues, promoting safety and education through courses of instruction, and constructing and maintaining hiking and mountain access trails throughout B.C.

Membership in the FMCBC is open to any individual or group involved or interested in non-mechanized outdoor activities and conservation concerns. Membership includes a subscription to CLOUDBURST.

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CLOUDBURST

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Unsolicited manuscripts are welcome and will be considered for unpaid publication. Submissions should be typed, double spaced, signed and accompanied by a SASE for return. Your ideas are welcome.

ASSISTED BY B.C. RECREATION AND SPORT.

COVER PHOTO

Learning to back country ski on the FMCBC's Chilcotins Ski Tour. February, 1990



Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Recreation and Culture
Honourable Lyall Hanson, Minister

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Six years ago the Federation produced its Wilderness Policy and began to lobby for wilderness recognition and legislation. Two months ago the Ministry of Forests (MOF) published theirs. I report it this way not to condemn the government for a policy that has for a long time been needed, but to illustrate how slowly the wheels of bureaucracy turn.

At a time when the public and many in the forest industry are recognizing that the forest resource has been badly managed, it is a light in the darkness to finally have a formal way to nominate for preservation areas of the provincial forest.

Intense competition for the same resource has brought into conflict an industry developed on inflated projections of how much commercial timber exists, and a public alarmed about a provincial resource disappearing at a non-sustainable rate while damaging the balance within ecosystems, ruining the natural beauty of the coast and mountains, and impacting outdoor recreation and tourism everywhere.

The Federation advocated separate legislation in the form of a Wilderness Act. But provisions for recognizing wilderness have been developed through existing legislation. There are inherent problems with giving a ministry (MOF) a mandate to both cut trees and preserve areas of wilderness, that is - not cut trees. The MOF is responsible for all aspects of forest management, including recreation, in the provincial forest - some 85% of B.C.'s land base. Very often, timber harvesting and recreation do not go together very well. But perhaps they could fit better.

When the forest service goes through a planning process for a Timber Supply Area (TSA) there are many factors requiring consideration, recreation being one of them. Each TSA has an Allowable Annual Cut (AAC), which is a determination made by the Chief Forester's office of the volume of timber (out by up to 30% according to recent stats.) which can be taken per year on a sustainable yield basis.

In theory, a District Manager can decide that the highest value and best use of an area is recreation, or wilderness, or range, or for fish and wildlife, but in practice this is rarely done because timber harvesting is paramount. The question is "can this change?". Or, will political and economic pressures coupled with production-minded managers (unaware or afraid of the choices) maintain the already unacceptable status quo of log it regardless. Right now in most forest service planning processes, recreation considerations are token, and are made at the end of the process after all other allocations have been made.

Finally there is a long overdue decision that some areas of B.C. may be classified as Wilderness, but it is the Forest Service that will study and designate Wilderness Areas. This is the same agency that for years choked on the word "wilderness" and wanted instead to use "natural areas".

The new policy, on paper, seems reasonable. But where can the public look at its managed forests and find the evidence to qualify the Forest Service as appropriate managers of our "natural" heritage, especially when the designation of 'Wilderness Area' is the only available protection for the Southern Chilcotin Mountains, the Stein Valley, the Megin and Mitla watersheds and many other areas currently scheduled for timber harvesting.

Can this agency recognize that some areas may be more valuable as wilderness?

Is there any willingness within government to even consider having merchantable timber left standing, access roads not built, and logging plans already approved recinded all to preserve an area as wilderness?

The Height of the Rockies Wilderness Area, where out of 1 million cubic metres of wood some 300,000 cubic metres will not be cut, shows how it may work but the crunch will come nearer the coast where there is much more at stake for both industry and conservation, including much higher timber values and much more pressure from the public.

Conflicts of the recent past and present are grim evidence of development out of control. The newer breed of MOF managers may provide hope, but it will take some bold decision making to show whether the new MOF Wilderness Policy is more than just fancy icing with no cake, or the long sought for key to a more balanced future, even from a most unlikely source. See note Page 7

ADOPT-A-TRAIL UPDATE

By Neil Grainger

Your Trail Committee is working hard on the Adopt-A-Trail Program. The Trail Manual is now complete and should be released soon. Information packages are available from the Federation office, and we are about to launch a publicity campaign. However, the best campaign we can have is for you, the user, to contact groups who may be interested in adopting a trail.

The Trail Committee's push for the Adopt-A-Trail Program has coincided with both Forestry and Parks' renewed interest in trail maintenance and updating. May it continue! Don't be disappointed if your chosen trail gets an update this year; accept it gratefully and carry on next year. If your trail is

being worked on, and if your group is willing, the Trail Committee can shift your group to another of the two hundred trails for 1990. Your help will be greatly appreciated. In any event, check with the agency involved before starting work on any trail.

Hopefully, by the next issue of Cloudburst we will be able to list those trails that either Parks or Forestry will be working on in 1990. A trail Note: The only serious problem left from last November's flood in the Chilliwack and Skagit drainages is the bridge washout at the junction of Chipmunk and Spoon creeks, on the Cheam Trail. The bridge will be replaced as soon as conditions permit

Master Plan Released for Cathedral Park

The Ministry of Parks has produced a master plan in response to the increased use and the conflicting recreation and resource uses in Cathedral Provincial Park. The plan outlines intentions to phase out cattle grazing in the Park, increase campsite capacity and upgrade trails. Horseback riding will be emphasized in the eastern portion of the Park where trails are to be improved for horse use. Copies of the plan are available from Southern Interior Region, B.C. Parks, 101-1050 West Columbia Street, Kamloops, B.C. V2C 1L4

Squamish Climbers

Plans to turn the Smoke Bluffs into a Provincial Park are advancing quickly.

This Spring, all rockclimbers will be asked, on site, on sight, to purchase a \$10 button - or show the one they already have. The 1990 button will be distinctive. Be prepared to cough up. Parking at Vista Crescent will close. New parking will be off Logger's Lane (turn right at traffic signal by McDonalds). Port-a-Pottys will be provided at a few locations, and paid for by the FMCBC and SRA (perhaps from a parking fee). You are cautioned to drive slowly and carefully when accessing or leaving the bluffs. The neighbours are supportive of the Park and rockclimbing - but worried about the traffic through their residential area.

SAFETY AND EDUCATION: Courses

SAFETY AND EDUCATION: Committee Report

Richard Howes, Chairman

Long Term Planning Process

At meetings in November (Vancouver Island) and December (B.C. Mainland) your club delegate was briefed on the current state of the ongoing Long Term Planning Process which has been undertaken by the Board of Directors and the permanent committees. By now you should have been informed by your delegate of the main points of the plan, and I am keen to receive any input which you may have concerning planning for the Safety and Education program.

This committee is further developing the Safety and Education component of the plan, and in particular has drafted an annual calendar for committee work with a core agenda for each of its monthly meetings. If you have any comments regarding the direction and focus of the plan, now is the time to communicate these to your delegate before the club delegates meeting on March 28, or directly to the committee before its April 11 meeting.

Summer Program

Instructors and Assistant Instructors - call for applicants

The FMCBC maintains a core of dedicated instructors who together have considerable experience with all aspects of the Safety and Education Program courses. We are calling for suitably qualified applicants who would like to become involved in this program. Applicants will have an extensive background in the relevant areas of mountain travel. Current First Aid certification is required for both instructors and assistant instructors and will be, at minimum, basic level first aid with CPR, with preference given (particularly in the case of instructors) to holders of the Advanced Wilderness First Aid for Outdoor Leaders certificate.

Written references from two senior members of the mountaineering community along with a resume of the applicant's mountain travel and teaching background are also required.

In considering applicants, the committee's main goal will be to maintain existing high standards of instruction and safety. Normally, involvement of new participants will be at an occasional, and assistant instructor level for the duration of a continuing evaluation process.

The Search for a New Basic Rockclimbing Venue

I am continuing the seemingly age-old search for an alternative location at which basic rockclimbing courses can be held. We are hoping to reduce the strain on our regular instructional sites such as Murrin Lake Provincial Park and the Smoke Bluffs at Squamish, and welcome informed suggestions for possible cliffs.

If the previous quarter was very busy for your Board of Directors, then this past quarter has been hectic. Activities have focused on producing with club delegates a Long Term Management Plan for the Federation, with committees and Directors a Short Term Plan, and with the Directors, an improved administrative infrastructure.

The incomplete Long Term Management Plan was presented to all club delegates in late November. Delegates were asked to review this plan with their club executives and provide feedback at the next delegates meeting (March 24 for Vancouver Island, March 28 for lower mainland). This consultation with clubs is essential if we are to ensure that our plan is on the right track.

Our Short Term Plan involves producing the Annual budget, developing an Annual Report for the AGM on June 16th, completion of the Long Term Management Plan, the development of a Director's Handbook, completion of position descriptions for all Directors and establishing the means for improved participation in the organization by both Regional Directors and club delegates.

Delegates Meetings: On November 17, I attended the AGM of the Kootenay Mountaineering Club in Castlegar as the guest of Ms. Rita Holmes - President. The meeting featured a buffet dinner, a sing song with an original presentation of "The KMC Old Goats" and then business. One item was a discussion of the Federation, the Smoke Bluffs, and what we do for clubs. Frankly, I enjoyed the opportunity to listen to our members' concerns and inform them of our activities. On the Saturday, I accompanied Burt and Sue Port and family on an early season ski trip off the Salmo-Creston to Ripple Ridge and a hut built and maintained by the Creston Cross Country Ski Club. This was not unlike the Diamond Head area near Squamish. Before leaving for the airport on Sunday, Sue drove me out to the Kinaird Bluffs. This is the local rockclimbing area where the KMC and Selkirk College have conducted some rockclimbing instruction. To our surprise we discovered 'for sale' signs on the property near the Bluffs; the KMC is now investigating. My sincere appreciation to the KMC for an enjoyable weekend.

On November 25, I attended the Vancouver Island delegates meeting

organized by Regional Director Judy Wigmore. This was an all-day session with all six Island clubs represented. Judy did an outstanding job of organizing and chairing the meeting - it was definitely kept on track and on time. I was impressed by the level of communication and cooperation evident amongst the clubs in developing consensus on various issues.

At the lower mainland delegates meeting on November 28, we were able to provide some feedback to the Chilliwack Outdoor Club on conflict between trails and logging plans in the Chilliwack Valley. We also discussed a variety of fund raising initiatives. I will be encouraging clubs and club members to be more involved in the Federation.

Looking into the next fiscal year, I would like to see (i) Cloudburst produced bi-monthly instead of quarterly, (ii) Regional Directors flown in to our Board meetings as requested by the delegates at the 1989 AGM, (iii) the Federation's Annual Report provided to all members, (iv) more members involved on our committees so that the Federation is even more effectively its members. I also hope we successfully attract some new clubs into the Federation.

Smoke Bluffs cleanup

The next Smoke Bluffs work party for clean up is scheduled for Saturday, April 28th. Meet in the parking lot by 9 am. All you will need is gloves, a rake, shovel or broom, and garbage bags. The goal is primarily to pick up and dispose of all litter. Bottles are usually recycled if possible. To the extent we can, we educate other climbers not familiar with the park objective, sell buttons, and when the clean up is over - go climbing.

Preliminary plans are to conduct walking tours of the area to promote the park concept and to conduct demonstrations of rock climbing for the curious or uninitiated.

For information, contact anyone on the committee:

Cheryl Leskiw 321-6910
BCMC

Doug Herchmer 980-5538
Alpine Club- Vancouver

Dave Jones 276-2684
Squamish Rock climbers Association

MEET THE DIRECTORS

Who are these mysterious Directors who run the Federation of Mountain Clubs? Come and meet them in person, and share any issues, gripes, praises and climbing stories. Refreshments provided.

FRIDAY, APRIL 27.

6-9 p.m. Sport B.C. Building
1367 West Broadway

Strathcona Park

On February 27 the Strathcona Steering Committee's public advisory members, Ann Fiddich - Mayor of Gold River, Peggy Carswell - Comox/Strathcona Regional District, and Jim Rutter - FMCBC met with the Parks Minister, Ivan Messmer to discuss Strathcona Park issues. The Committee presented Messmer with a report which summarized their findings. The report recommended a base boundary for Strathcona Park on which a Master Plan process will be based. A reply from the Minister may be forthcoming in the near future.

Projects 1990

Trail Projects being considered by the FMCBC include

Comox Glacier Trail
Hanes Creek Trail
Upper Myra Trail
Squamish area trails
Upper Bedwell Trail

Seymour Demonstration Forest
Tenquille Lake area
Castlegar/Nelson area trails
Non-trail projects include

- Summer Mountain Guides Training
- Office Training for new staff
- Research project for new course manuals.

FMCBC Notice of Meeting

The AGM is to be held at the Delta Airport Inn in the Delta Room on June 16th at 9 am. Club members may attend as observers if space permits.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

We are writing for two unrelated reasons. The first relates to Cloudburst and its recently announced paper recycling program. Your efforts are to be commended. For whatever it's worth, we pass on the following information to you and FMCBC members, in order to reduce paper consumption in this country.

Anybody can write the:

Canadian Direct

Marketing Association,

1 Concorde Gate,

Suite 607,

Don Mills, Ont. M3C 3N6

and ask to have their name removed from a lot of computer based mailing lists, used to send unsolicited material to Canadians. We on the receiving end of "junk" mail often do not stop to consider that it costs a substantial amount of money to send "junk" mail. It is a win/win situation whereby the originators of "junk" mail reduce costs while the recipients benefit from a reduction in "junk" mail.

Note:

The FMCBC's advocacy work is this year to be strongly focussed on two areas of outstanding natural beauty and value, namely Chilko Lake and the Southern Chilcotin Mountains. For years Chilko has been studied as a candidate provincial park. It is now threatened by developing plans to log the west side of the lake. The FMCBC is calling for park status immediately. The Chilcotin Mountains are threatened by logging plans in its major valleys, until now roadless and accessed by horse and foot trail only. The FMCBC has nominated this area for Wilderness Area Classification, and it will be the a classic test case of government sincerity because it matches one hundred percent with all the requirements of the new Wilderness Policy.

The FMCBC's Environmental Advocacy Fund can always use your generous help. Tax deductible receipts will be given to donors.

The second reason for writing is in response to the "Lions Bay Trail Problems" article in the December 1989 issue. We've lived in Vancouver for 12 and 30 years respectively. Coincidentally, the first hike we went on was up the Lions Bay Trail. We enjoy the hike, and do it two or three times a year. We were unfamiliar with any great controversy with respect to this trail. Parking generally hasn't been a problem for us, as we're early birds. We are therefore appalled to see the style which the Mayor of Lions Bay has adopted in conducting negotiations on the proposed parking lot. We find his complete disregard for the facts to be unacceptable. His concluding remark advo-

cates a "dog in a manger" position, which is clearly beyond the scope of current negotiations. While we don't pretend to be familiar with all the issues, the Federation seems, on balance, to be a very reasonable organization, trying to work out a compromise with all parties concerned. The Federation has our support in proposing a parking lot at the trailhead.

If the Federation requires further letters outlining support for the parking lot and use of this trail, please don't hesitate to inform us.

Keep up the good Work!

Mark Hanna

Eileen Finnegan

Rock On!

It is that time again. As the powder turns to corn, thoughts drift to warm days on steep granite. Call the Federation office to find which program will help you deal with the winter rust. Novice to advanced. Courses start at \$120.

BackPacking

Plan an exciting week in B.C.'s best wilderness. Courses to the Stein Valley, Southern Chilcotins, and Strathcona Park are booking already. Great summer vacation value! Only 10 places per trip.

Southern Chilcotins	July 30-July 7	\$225
Stein	July 14-21 and 21-28	\$225
Strathcona	August 3-12 and 10-19	\$275

Eldorado Creek - Southern Chilcotin - Hut based Ski Tour

This year's ski tour was once again a highlight of the Winter Program. We are looking forward already to next year and the sauna is ready to go! Reserve your spot early. Suited for intermediate skiers. Feb. 24 - March 1 1991. Includes hut fees. \$400. 10 places only.

Esplanade Hut to Hut Ski Tour

Feb. 2 - 9 1991

Enjoy the beauty of the Esplanade Range in the fabulous Selkirk Mountains. Intermediate skiers will love the powder and the chance to enhance route finding skills and decision making in the winter environment.

Cost: includes helicopter access, instruction, food and hut fees \$700.00

Booking Deadline: November 1, 1990. 10 places only.

Other Programs

Complete Mountaineering .. 7 days	Snow and Ice School	5 days
Rock Rescue	Mountain Navigation	2 days
Introduction to Backpacking		2 days
Crevasse Rescue	Rockclimbing - Basic	2 days

Call us for information and a free brochure. 737-3053

FMBC: OFFICE NEWS

FROM THE OFFICE

Sara Kammerzell

Thank You Thank You Thank You
Volunteers:

Our Winter Stars

Two people have donated a day a week to the office and have been a tremendous gift to the FMBC. Our thanks to **Ruth Guimond and Bob Schroeder**. A volunteer of another type, **Maria Pires**, has raised a total of \$1,000 for the Smoke Bluffs project at Squamish. We appreciate your contribution to the creation of Canada's first climbing Park, **Maria**. Cheers!

■ **Ken and Carol McGregor** donated generously to the **Smoke Bluffs Fund** in the name of their son, the late **Bob McGregor**, climbing instructor and strong supporter of the Bluffs initiative. Thank you, **Mr. and Mrs. McGregor**.

■ **Taylor Jackson**, long-time FMBC course participant, has been working the bugs out of our computer booking program and the new system will be in place for the spring rush. Action Jackson, we owe ya!

■ **Filing:** Is there a filing expert out there who desperately wants to re-vamp and organize our office system? I'll provide coffee, tea, and tremendous support to anyone ready to tangle with this monster. Imagine on your tombstone: "This brave soul tackled the Fed's filing system and won!"

■ **Fantastic Plastic:** Visa has done so well in the office that I've applied for MasterCard. Approximately 1/3 of our bookings are by telephone now. It's so easy...just dial **737-3053** and ask for Sara. Your winter experience is just a telephone call away!

■ **TD Visa Pursuit Card** earned the Federation \$671.00 in the first quarter! Do you have yours? I'll send you an application...it costs you NOTHING.

News News News News

Knight Limousine Service Ltd. (361-9080) is offering a Port Renfrew "connector" service twice daily all summer for those who can do without the worry of how to get to and from the West Coast Trail. For a schedule, contact the above number or write: 2nd floor 3297 Douglas Street, Victoria, B.C. V8Z 3K9

Provincial Round Table on the Environment and Economy

Premier Vander Zalm announced the formation of the Provincial Round Table on January 16th, and the Federation of Mountain Clubs was nominated Bob Peart, Executive Director of the Outdoor Recreation Council. He was selected. Bob will be among the 31-member advisory body to assist government in achieving sustainable development.

BC Parks Volunteer Host Program

Have you ever thought about spending a part of your summer living in a Park? Each year the Ministry of Parks sponsors volunteer programs that provide opportunities for individuals to become involved in park activities and services. If you enjoy meeting people, you may be the kind of person they are looking for as a BC Park Host, and we urge you to seek further information at: Volunteer Co-ordinator, BC Parks, 4000 Seymour Place, Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X5

MOUNTAIN BIKE SYMPOSIUM

Ken Legg

The Outdoor Recreation Council is sponsoring a Mountain Bike Symposium April 27 - 28 in Vancouver. The objectives are to: (i) enhance awareness among participants of mountain bikers' needs, and mountain biking issues and management, (ii) address conflicts surrounding mountain biking, (iii) to develop an action plan to follow through on these objectives. Given the conflicts that do occur between hikers and mountain bikers it is important that the hikers' point of view be included to make this a worthwhile symposium. If you are interested in attending, contact ORC at 737-3058.

From Roger Freeman on Stein Rediscovery: In Touch With The Sacred Valley.:

The original guidebook, **Exploring the Stein River Valley**, is now out of print. The area has changed greatly, with a new cable car, new well-marked trails, and camping facilities. When David Thompson and I co-authored that book, the valley was largely unknown. Now it is still unlogged because of public pressure and fear of a massive reaction if road-building were to start.

We want to support the Stein Wilderness Alliance's efforts to redo the book. Much work has already gone into careful measuring of the valley's trails. The new book will have about 150 pages and the following tentative contents, and will be printed on recycled paper; a two-colour fold map is planned.

The Stein is now much better used than in the past, but hikers need a proper guide for safe and enjoyable travel. There are rumours that the upper Stein will be logged by Van Horlick Pass if the route via the mouth remains politically not feasible.

The Alliance is self-publishing the guide in order to retain the maximum proceeds from sales for further Stein preservation work. Target retail price is \$10.95. The majority of the funding is to come from the corporate sector and recreational groups. The Mountain Equipment Co-op has donated approximately 25% of the estimated cost. In order for this work to be completed, the Stein Wilderness Alliance is asking for donations from clubs and individuals. Clubs donating more than \$200 will receive acknowledgment in the book and copies at cost. The Alliance was very successful in fund-raising for the award-winning book, **Stein: The way of the River** in 1988. Please give this request your most careful consideration.

Tax-deductible donations made payable to "Institute for New Economics" should be mailed to: The Stein Wilderness Alliance, 2150 Maple Street, Vancouver, V6J 3T3 or to: Stein Rediscovery Trust, Box 195, Lytton, B.C. V0K 1Z0.

Ministry of Forests Wilderness Policy

Jay MacArthur - Co-Chairman Recreation and Conservation Committee (FMCBC)

The new Minister of Forests, Claude Richmond, released the Forest Service's Policy Framework for "Managing Wilderness in Provincial Forests" in December. The flexible policy outlines how wilderness will be managed by the Forest Service.

Wilderness is defined in the policy as "an area of land generally greater than 1000 hectares that predominately retains its natural character and on which human impact is transitory, minor and in the long run substantially unnoticeable"

I see the release of the policy as a positive step, there are many fantastic de facto wilderness areas that will never be designated as national provincial parks. The FMCBC reviewed the Forest Service's draft wilderness policy in 1988 and sent comments to the Ministry at that time. I am concerned that many of our recommendations are not included in the policy. I am also concerned that the following issues are not yet resolved:

- the policy leaves most management decisions for wilderness areas to be decided by the district which writes the wilderness management plan
- mineral exploration and development is not time-limited
- higher priority may be given to wilderness areas that have little timber or mining conflicts.
- should huts be allowed in Wilderness Areas?
- should planes and helicopters be allowed to land in Wilderness areas?
- the amount of time that the assessment and designation process will take

HIKING IN AUSTRIA

Sept. 1990. Two weeks, Vancouver return.
Price about \$2,000 double occupancy.

12 hikers will fly LUFTHANSA to Munich, travel into Austria by coach and enjoy 2 spectacular 4 night mountain tours staying at huts. All other nights at 4 star Hotels as you explore Austria.

Your host-Jim Rutter is accepting serious enquiries now.
Phone 604-876-1508

could allow logging plans and grazing permits to take effect.

-an advisory council has not been recommended

-that "small" 1,000-5,000 ha areas may be called wilderness, we recommended a different designation for such areas

I'm looking forward to working with the Forest Service to resolve these issues.

A draft Wilderness Management Plan for the height-of-the-Rockies Wilderness Area is now available from the Forest Service. As the first draft wilderness management plan, it should receive substantial public input.

For a copy of the Forest Service Wilderness Policy, write to: Recreation Section, Integrated Resources Branch,

Ministry of Forests, 1450 Government Street, Victoria, B.C. V8W 3E7

Chilko Lake Park Proposal

The FMCBC has prepared a Chilko Lake park proposal that will be presented to the provincial government.

We have sent a draft proposal to all of our member clubs, to the organizations that belong to the Outdoor Recreation Council (ORC) and to local Chilcotin businesses. We need strong support from you and these groups to ensure that the government will proceed with the designation of a park.

A copy of the proposal is available from the FMCBC office for \$2. For further information contact Jay MacArthur at 987-1232. Southern Chilcotin Mountains Recreation Area Proposed

Reprinted below is a letter from the FMCBC sent to the Minister of Forests and presented to a public hearing in Anahim Lake regarding a proposed pulpwood agreement in the Chilcotin.

You are encouraged to write to the Minister of Forests on this subject.

January 15, 1990

Hon. Claude Richmond, Minister of Forests,
Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4

Dear Mr. Richmond:

Subject: Proposed Pulpwood Agreement #19

We are very concerned about the proposed pulpwood agreement in the Cariboo Forest Region. We want to ensure that no harvesting commitments are made that would affect the following park and wilderness proposals:

-We have worked with the Ministry of parks since 1981 to have the Chilko Lake area designated as a provincial park. We plan to make a presentation to the Environment and Land Use Committee of Cabinet about the Chilko Lake Park Proposal in 1990.

Most of the park proposal was excluded from the provincial forest to allow a park to be designated, however the application from Skeena Cellulose includes the proposed park area. We have recently found that there is strong support for protecting the north end of Chilko Lake which is within the provincial forest.

-The Niut Wilderness Society is proposing a Forest Service wilderness area in the Niut Range west of Tatlayoko Lake.

-The Alpine Club of Canada is proposing the "Mt. Waddington Wilderness Area" be designated south-west of Bluff Lake.

-Southern Big Creek has proposed as a recreation or wilderness area

-The Canadian Parks service is studying the possible creation of a National Park in the "Gang Ranch" area.

We are concerned that the Ministry of Forests seems to be rushing into the proposed pulpwood agreement.

We recommend that a land-use strategy be developed by the residents of the Chilcotin, with input from other British Columbians who care about the future of the Chilcotin.

We further recommend that a "Regional Resource Management Committee" be established to develop such a strategy.

Yours truly,

Jay MacArthur,
Co-Chairman, Recreation and Conservation Committee

I have always been a strong proponent of **Cloudburst**, particularly as a means of reaching individual members in the outlying parts of the province. If you live outside the Vancouver or Victoria areas it may be your only regular contact with the FMCBC and its activities. Often, the issues and initiatives of the Federation seem to be focussed on the lower mainland. This is understandable in the context of the population density - both in the numbers of resource conflicts, and of Federation membership; but there is a need for a broader perspective which this column may help to address.

For several years, there was a rumbling in the local hiking club over our dues to the Federation "What good are they?" "They only represent the lower mainland." "We don't have those problems up here".

Several things have happened since then. First, **Cloudburst** is now distributed to all individual members. Those who take the time to read it are more aware of the issues and what the Federation is doing about them. Second,

The country no longer seems quite as large and untouched as it did ten years ago.

there is far more environmental awareness in society in general. And unfortunately we are beginning to see more resource conflicts such as higher elevation logging in the north. The country no longer seems quite as large and untouched as it did ten years ago. Third, there are many more people recreating in the backcountry, as evidenced by the early sell-out of the FMCBC avalanche courses in Prince George this year. These factors were reflected in the hiking club a year and a half ago, when after a heated debate, we voted almost unanimously to support the FMCBC's large fee increase.

The FMCBC represents the interests of non-mechanized users of the mountain environment, primarily through the needs and efforts of its member clubs. In this context, it is important to recognize that geographically at least, most of the areas represented by the Federation are still dependent directly or indirectly on a resource based economy. We have always prided ourselves in the north about our ability to share the environment. A few years ago, I had the opportunity to attend an

FMCBC annual general meeting and discuss this philosophy at a time before the phrase 'share the resource' was in common usage. I was surprised by the negative reaction this invoked from some of those present. I'm happy to see that the Federation has resisted the temptation of becoming too oriented to one extreme. Our moderate but firm approach on issues has earned a level of respect from government which seems

clicking his heels as he moved. Talking aloud didn't seem to disturb him, and after satisfying his curiosity he slowly made his way off the peak, browsing an open north facing bowl until finally disappearing into the trees.

Experiences such as this are not uncommon in the north, their frequency is a measure of the health of the environment. Our concern is to minimize the effects of the commercial and

the rate of change in the north is giving us pause to reflect.

to have provided us with real opportunities to effect change.

Yet, the rate of change in the north is giving us pause to reflect. Logging has long provided the economic base which allows us to live within reach of the wild places. The logging roads provide our access. We move each year like wandering nomads from one new valley to the next, following the access roads as they are carved into the wilderness, skiing and hiking where few if any people have travelled before. The clearcuts and the burns provide good access and often afford superb views of the surrounding peaks. Your Executive Director can attest to this after the tour we took him on during his official visit to Prince George last Spring.

The plantations of 15 years ago are starting to grow up, giving us some idea of what the clearcut valleys will look like in the not too distant future. And we look thoughtfully at the parkland forests which were high graded in the past, and wonder if selective logging will again be an alternative in the future. The clearcuts along Highway 16 East have not only removed stands of decadent cedar, but have significantly improved the view of the mountains to the north. And yet, on the south side of the same highway we are concerned about the effects of logging on herds of fifty or more mountain caribou.

Last Fall, two of us reached the summit of a 6000 foot ridge directly above the highway, when we had an unforgettable encounter with a young caribou. A colourful two year old bull had followed us up the trail to the summit, where he circled around until he was directly downwind, and then slowly approached to within thirty or forty feet. He paraded around for ten minutes, audibly sniffing the air and

mechanized activities through more awareness on the part of the companies and the regulating bodies, but hopefully in a way which does not threaten their and our livelihood.

Several companies are currently participating with the fish and wildlife branch in a multi-year radio collar survey of the afore-mentioned mountain caribou populations in the Cariboo, McGregor and Rocky mountains northeast of Prince George. Some of the early results are revealing that the mountain migration patterns are much broader than anticipated. Hopefully, through careful planning, this data will help minimize the impact of future logging.

Areas which used to see an isolated visitor ten years ago, are now often crowded (northern context) by groups of up to thirty people. In such circumstances, is it reasonable to build an open fire for a short lunch stop wherever we choose, or should we be making more effort to leave no trace of our passage? With new sensitivities towards environmental ethics on the part of industry and government, there are unprecedented opportunities for change. The Fall 1989 issue of 'The Trumpeter' (Lightstar Press, Victoria, BC) looks at the larger question of whether environmental ethics are even enough. Annie Booth talks about the need for personal growth from within - a willingness to look at the whole environment within which we live, and not just the needs of man. Perhaps what this means in the context of the 'shared resource' is that we need a gestalt philosophy of working together - a recognition that the 'whole' is greater than its constituent parts. That it to say, not just between industry, recreation and environmental interests, but with everything which comprises our world.